

Washington, D.C. – Today, Congresswoman Betty McCollum (D-MN) secured \$7.4 million for essential St. Paul transportation projects in the Fiscal Year 2008 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Bill. The \$50.7 billion annual funding bill was approved by the U.S. House Committee on Appropriations this afternoon.

The House bill invests:

- \$6 million in the Central Corridor Light Rail for preliminary engineering activities;

- \$250,000 toward acquisition and renovation of Union Depot as a multi-modal transportation hub;

- \$250,000 for improvements to the intersection of Snelling Avenue and University Avenue in St. Paul, one of the most congested and polluted trouble spots in the Twin Cities region;

- \$900,000 for planning and redesign of a highly congested segment of Interstate 35 West between Interstate 694 in New Brighton and Lexington Ave. in Blaine. This project is strongly supported by the North Metro Mayors Assn.

The bill also includes report language requested by Rep. McCollum directing the Secretaries of Transportation and Health and Human Services to fund the safe transport of children participating in Head Start programs across America.

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